

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #36
December 11, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE

- The World Health Organization did not post any updates this week on the impact of H5N1 influenza on humans. The human case count stands at 258, including 154 deaths (59.7%).

NATIONAL UPDATE

- An ASTHO sponsored conference call on Sunday, Dec 10, 2006 discussed the agenda for a meeting at the CDC on Dec 11-12, 2006 concerning non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) for pandemic influenza. A great deal of press coverage is anticipated for this conference that will include release of the Institute of Medicine Report on community containment for pandemic influenza. There is an increasing consensus that NPIs can have a significant effect on the impact of an influenza pandemic if measures are instituted early in a pandemic. Such measures include early closure of schools and cancellation of public events. The Dec 11-12 conference will include extensive discussion of research results from the 1918 pandemic, as well as policy options at both federal and state levels.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- The next meeting of the Virginia Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- Office of Drinking Water (ODW) will host a Drinking Water PanFlu Summit on Jan. 31-Feb. 1 in Winchester. Audience will include Region III (VA, PA, MD, DE, WV) state ODW representatives. Desired outcome is to create ODW PanFlu template for Continuity of Operations issues.
- State Emergency Planning Coordinator met with Virginia Primary Care Association, Disaster Preparedness Committee to coordinate response efforts.
- The Avian Influenza Task Force, with representatives from the Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Department Game and Inland Fisheries, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services in addition to Virginia based federal agriculture and wildlife officials continues to meet and discuss the Commonwealth's surveillance and response in regard to avian influenza. The most recent meeting of this committee involved not only health, game and agriculture officials as mentioned previously, but also included participants from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Virginia Poultry Federation.
- VDH Central Office conducted a statewide video teleconference, coordinating with Local Health Districts.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- **Eastern Region**

- Epidemiologist met with VP for Student Affairs at Virginia Wesleyan College to discuss their emergency response team plans for pandemic influenza.
- Team conducted a Regional Hospital PIO PanFlu Workshop.
- Team conducted a Regional Hospital/Healthcare PanFlu Workshop.
- Medical Consultant participated in the Sentara Healthcare PanFlu planning group meeting.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Alexandria**

- Planner worked on coordination of use of regional National Capital Region financial resources.

- **Central Virginia**

- PIOs from the jurisdiction met to continue plans for a district-wide JIC in the event of a PH emergency. Public space options are available and options are being explored.
- Director spoke to a group in Bedford that included a number of Parish Nurses who are using the individual preparedness materials and the VDH DVD with their congregations.

- **Chesapeake**

- Continue to consult with Chesapeake Public Schools and provide input for the development of their PanFlu Response Plan.
- Director active in contacting local physician practice manager community to initiate involvement on our Task Force Physician Sub-committee on an Office Consolidation concept.

- **Chesterfield**

- Educator presented information on PanFlu preparedness to a group of Emergency Volunteers from the Chesterfield and Henrico Health Districts. Volunteer Coordinator and Planner also participated in the event.
- Outreach efforts with local churches and Chambers of Commerce are ongoing.

- **Chickahominy**

- District received invitation to speak to New Kent Women's Club on Pandemic Flu.
- Hanover School Board and Health Dept. had first PanFlu Planning Session.
- Met with Publisher of Senior Connections for PanFlu /Seasonal Flu to discuss possibility of public message for Senior Connections January issue.

- **Crater**

- PanFlu Coordinating Committee met to continue with the district planning efforts. Representatives from local government, the National Park Service, District 19, Central State Hospital, Southside Virginia Training Center, Fire/EMS, SRMC and DSS attended and discussed planning issues and shared ideas regarding local planning obstacles. Hospital surge planning was also a focus. Hospital Coordinator updated the committee on planning efforts for meeting the needs of the hospitals if they were to surpass their surge capacity. In addition, a list of assets to include equipment and personnel will be assembled for the district with input from each jurisdiction.
- Planner updated the Crater Advisory Board on the actions of the Coordinating Committee.

- PanFlu Presentation given by the Epidemiologist and Planner at Petersburg DSS to provide an overview of the impact of a pandemic on Petersburg and local governments'/health department's planning efforts, as well as information on infection control practices and personal preparedness, to DSS, Fire/EMS, Sheriff's Department, and Police staff.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Director and epidemiologist participated in the Mountain Empire Public Health Coordination Council meeting, where representatives from health department agencies in Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee and far SW Virginia shared pandemic flu activities and plans.
- **Hampton**
 - Coordinated with City of Hampton Public Safety Working Group.
 - Attended MRC Executive Staff meeting, Hospital PIO and PanFlu meetings and MMRS Health Care Committee meeting.
- **Henrico**
 - District continued to work on the after-action report from the mass vaccination exercise conducted last month.
 - Planner consulted with a private preschool that was developing its PanFlu plan.
 - Epidemiologist sent the weekly Avian Flu Update to local hospital ICPs, Richmond International Airport Emergency Planner, and other local partners.
 - Planner submitted documents required for continued grant funding of the Henrico MRC from the Richmond Metropolitan Medical Response System.
 - Planner participated in the EP&R Update Video Teleconference.
- **Lenowisco**
 - Planner and Epidemiologist attended the Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council Meeting (MEPHECC). PanFlu preparation efforts were discussed by several states.
 - Planner attended Integrated Flood Observing and Warning System (IFLOWS) training. EOCs from several local jurisdictions also attended.
 - Planner attended the planning initiative video conference on PanFlu.
- **Lord Fairfax**
 - Director met with the Page County Administrator and updated him with the District's current PanFlu plan.
 - Director also provided a review with written suggested edits to the Winchester City staffer finalizing their PanFlu plan.
- **Loudoun**
 - Consulted with Inova Loudoun Hospital ICP regarding a visit to the hospital by 20 doctors from the People's Republic of China. Provided the hospital ICP with presentation materials indicating various federal, State, and Loudoun County responsibilities in PanFlu planning, preparedness, and response. Also delivered 20 PanFlu personal infection control kits to the hospital to present to the Chinese delegation.
 - Consulted with a representative of the local Virginia Defense Force unit and provided public affairs information related to an upcoming PanFlu presentation, which will be hosted by the Black Horse Brigade 23rd Battalion "B" Company of the Virginia Defense Force in Leesburg, VA. The Defense Force is opening the presentation to the general public.
 - Provided a PanFlu presentation and MRC information for 25 staff members of Kuehne and Nagel, a worldwide logistics firm in Dulles, VA.

- Provided a PanFlu presentation and MRC information for 21 Costco pharmacy managers from Loudoun County and several other Northern Virginia and Maryland locations at their Mid-Atlantic Regional training session in Sterling, VA. Concerns about the role of pharmacists and retail pharmacies were raised.
- Provided a PanFlu presentation to 200 students and faculty of Patrick Henry College, Purcellville, VA, as part of their planning process.
- CodeFlu 06 After-Action Report drafted and distributed to Exercise Planning Team for review.
- Oriented new PanFlu Program Technician and Special Needs Senior Health Educator.
- **Norfolk**
 - The Norfolk Health District and the Norfolk Public Schools cooperated to distribute Pandemic Influenza information packets to all kindergarten students and their families this week. Over 3000 packets containing a Planning Book for Families, posters on Cover Your Cough and Wash Your Hands, and the CDC Planning Checklist for Individuals and Families were distributed.
 - The Norfolk Local Emergency Planning Committee continued planning for Pandemic Influenza at its recent meeting. Each component organization reviewed the current status of preparations and the interaction during an occurrence.
- **Peninsula**
 - Director presented and answered questions on “Preparing for Pandemic Influenza” for 170+ child care providers attending the District’s Annual Child Care Provider Workshop.
 - Director, Planner and Epidemiologist attended the Eastern Region Health System/Hospital Pandemic Influenza PIO and Planning Workshops.
- **Prince William**
 - After Action Report meeting for Flu Clinic to finalize FLUEX ’06 AAR
 - Community awareness night for Manassas City Public Schools. Meeting highlighted differences between pandemic and seasonal flu and how to prepare for an outbreak.
 - County pandemic meeting to review proposed strategy and organizational structure.
 - Seasonal flu vaccine was dispensed.
- **Rappahannock/Rapidan**
 - Completed delivery of all PanFlu materials (31,000+ pieces) to public and private schools.
 - Planner, Immunizations Nurse and Health Educator gave a presentation and led a mini tabletop exercise with Orange County Nursing Home.
 - Immunizations nurse gave a presentation to Orange County Social Services.
 - Planner gave presentations to Culpeper and Rappahannock Senior Centers.
 - Planner gave a presentation to the Jeffersonston Ruritans.
 - Mailed information on Pandemic flu to all Doctors’ offices
 - Public Health Nurse met with Rappahannock Schools Pandemic planning group.
 - Epidemiologist worked with Regional Trainer and PIO on crisis communication during a Pandemic.
- **Roanoke/Alleghany**
 - Health Educator reviewed the PanFlu Phase II budget approvals and remaining funds from Phase I.
 - Health Educator reviewed and critiqued the Roanoke County Public Schools PanFlu plan.
 - Health Educator taped a spot on seasonal flu for the Latino TV program "Abriendo Puertas" on Cox cable. A future program on PanFlu is possible.

- **Thomas Jefferson**

- Director met with PanFlu Health & Medical Committee and revised goals for 2007
- PanFlu Coordinator, using Chamber of Commerce mailing list, sent out 3,000 flyers for PanFlu business preparedness seminar in February
- Educator arranged for PanFlu checklist to be on 24,000 Kroger pharmacy bags.
- Educator prepared for PanFlu press briefing.

- **West Piedmont**

- Planner distributed PanFlu Materials to the Henry County Baptist Association for further dispersal to its member churches.
- Planner distributed PanFlu Hygiene Pamphlets and Brochures to the Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and 2 Assisted Living Health Care Facilities.
- Epidemiologist and Planner attended EP&R update